

Glossary

Active recreation – Activity that is usually more strenuous or organized and generally requires more developed facilities than passive recreation.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) – A three- or four-wheel vehicle that is 50 inches or less in width, intended for off-road highway use. Not licensed in Virginia.

Atlantic Coastal Flyway – The eastern migratory route taken by birds as they migrate in the fall and spring.

Bargain sale – A sale to a land trust or other conservation organization at less than fair market value. The difference between the sale price and the appraised fair market value qualifies as a tax deductible, charitable contribution.

Bayside – The Chesapeake Bay side of the Eastern Shore.

Bequest – A gift of land or other asset through a person's will.

Biodiversity – The variety of living things, including variability within and among living populations and the ecosystems within which they occur. Biodiversity is often a measure of the health of biological systems.

Blueway – For the purposes of this *Virginia Outdoors Plan*, the term blueway and water trail are used synonymously. Blueways and water trails are managed systems of access points and support facilities that allow trail users to plan multi-day trips with assurances that access points, camping sites, rest stops and re-supply sites are clearly identified on maps and on signs visible from the water.

Buffer zones – The inclusion of natural area or open space along edges of lands to protect ecological integrity and minimize conflicting land use adjacent to lands vulnerable to change.

Car top boat launch – A facility also known as a hand carry launch that provides appropriate water access to watercraft, such as canoes and kayaks, that may be transported on top of a car. A car top boat launch may also provide access for small boats transported by trailer; however, car top boat launches may be designed to prohibit access for boats transported by a trailer.

Carrying capacity – A wildlife management term for an equilibrium expressed by the availability of habitat components and the number of animals in a given area. In general ecological usage, carrying capacity is the dynamic equilibrium established between a life form and its environment. It is frequently expressed as a number indicating the population of any animal a given area can support. Carrying capacity varies throughout the year and from year to year, depending upon conditions within the habitat such as rainfall. There may be a difference between the ecological carrying capacity of a given area and the cultural carrying capacity of an area (see definition for recreational carrying capacity).

Complete street – Streets designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.

Comprehensive statewide trails plan – A plan created through feedback from users and all levels of government that inventories existing trails, details specific proposed routes for future trails and suggests policies for consistent development, maintenance and management of trails throughout the state.

Connector – A trail that leads to or links one or more parks or greenways.

Conservation – The stewardship of valued natural and cultural resources through preservation, management and care to protect the resources from loss, damage or deleterious change. Planned management of a natural resource to prevent misuse, destruction or neglect.

Conservation easement – A legally binding agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization or government agency (the easement holder), in which the landowner relinquishes specific land use rights, and the easement holder agrees to enforce the terms of the easement for public benefit.

Core area – A large area within a reserve network that is managed solely or primarily as an ecological reserve for the conservation of biological diversity. Such areas will often be the central units within the network and may include several ecosystems.

Corridor – A narrow, linear segment of land that connects ecosystems, water bodies or human activity. Examples would be biological corridors, hydrological corridors, wildlife corridors and resource-based outdoor recreational corridors. Corridors provide protection for the movement of wildlife and plant life across the landscape (ecological corridors), recreational access for rural and urban populations (trails), and enhancement or restoration of water quality (riparian corridors).

Designated – When a resource such as a trail, byway or river has received regional, statewide or federal recognition for outstanding qualities.

Ecosystem – A community of plants, animals and their environment that interacts and functions together as a unit.

Ecotourism – As defined by the Nature Conservancy and the World Conservation Union. "Environmentally responsible travel to natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and accompanying cultural features, both past and present) that promote conservation, have a low visitor impact and provide for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local peoples."

Edge – The portion of an ecosystem or habitat near the perimeter. The edge is most often subject to impact from surrounding land uses.

EIC (Environment as Integrating Context) – A school's surroundings and the community are used as a framework within which students can construct their own learning. Teachers and administrators who implement and integrate proven educational practices into the learning process guide the process.

Emergent wetlands – Wetlands that retain ponded water year-round and are most often associated with swamps and marshes or fringe wetland areas along open water

Environmental education – Education related to the natural and built environment within a real-world context that links the classroom to the students' community. Students are engaged in hands-on, active learning that increases their knowledge and awareness about the environment. Because environmental education encourages inquiry and investigation, students develop critical thinking, problem solving and effective decision-making skills. Quality, standards-based environmental education improves everyday life by protecting human health and encouraging stewardship of natural resources.

Environmental literacy – Fluency in the principles of ecology that includes a working knowledge of the basic vocabulary and understanding needed for wise stewardship decisions.

Fair market value (FMV) – The value of property offered on the open market for a reasonable period of time with both buyer and seller knowing all the uses to which the property could be put and with neither party being under pressure to buy or sell.

Fastlands – Seemingly stable lands, which are often vulnerable to erosion from storms and development, that lie above the tide line in coastal areas.

Fee simple – Absolute title to land, free of any other claims against the title, that one can sell or pass to another by will or inheritance.

Geotourism – Like ecotourism, geotourism promotes a virtuous circle whereby tourism revenues provide a local incentive to protect what tourists are coming to see. However, geotourism extends the principle beyond nature and ecology to incorporate all characteristics that contribute to sense of place, such as historic structures, living and traditional culture, landscapes, cuisine, arts and artisanry, as well as local flora and fauna. Geotourism sustains, or even enhances, the geographical character of a place, such as its culture, environment, heritage and the well-being of its residents.

Gray infrastructure – Man-made systems that support communities, including roads, utilities and buildings and other impervious surfaces.

Green infrastructure – A broad concept of the ecological and human life support system that incorporates “an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches and forests; and wilderness and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources, and contribute to the health and quality of life for communities and people” (Benedict and McMahon, 2006).

Green space – Lands with minimal impervious surface area that are not highly developed, including parks, natural areas, trails, greenways, forestlands, agricultural properties and other types of open space.

Greenway – A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridge-line, or overland along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road or other route. Any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian, equestrian or bicycle passage. An open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and with populated areas. Locally, certain strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt. (Adapted from Charles Little, *Greenways for America*. 1990. The Johns Hopkins Press).

Habitat – The area, environment or landscape where a plant or animal normally lives that provides all that plant or animal needs for survival.

Habitat fragmentation – Habitat separated into smaller parcels usually as a result of human land use associated with forestry, agriculture or development creating stressful living environments that impacts the health and viability of native flora and fauna.

Habitat patch areas – A relatively homogenous habitat area that is surrounded by different land use and separated from similar habitat.

High impact recreation facilities – High impact recreation facilities require landscape alterations to accommodate such activities. Alteration examples are buildings or structures, golf courses, community gardens, athletic playing fields, courts, children's play areas, dog parks, camp areas, equestrian facilities, swimming pools and pavement.

Highest and best use – That use of land, from among reasonably probable and adequately supported alternative uses, which is legally permissible, physically possible, financially feasible and maximally productive. The highest and best use must occur within the reasonable near future and can't be remote or speculative.

Hub – A large block of land that contains and buffers one or more core areas and anchors a green infrastructure network.

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Hydric soils – Soils that are saturated with ground water during the winter and most of the growing season.

Hydrophytic vegetation – Plants that grow in soils that are wet during the growing season.

Impervious surface – A surface, including pavement, buildings and compacted soil areas, that does not permit the absorption of stormwater.

Interpreter – A person at a site such as a park or museum who translates the ‘languages’ of natural or cultural history to visitors at that site. Interpretation is an educational method that aims to reveal meanings and relationships – such as ecological concepts – through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience and by illustrative media. It is a way of communicating that strives to make information enjoyable and relevant to the visitor.

Invasive species – Non-native plant, animal, or microbial species that cause, or are likely to cause, economic or ecological harm or harm to human health. “Non-native” (or “alien,” “exotic” or “nonindigenous”) means that they have been introduced by human action, intentionally or accidentally, into a region outside their natural geographic range.

Landscape – A large heterogeneous land area that includes a mosaic of ecosystems or land use having common characteristics.

Land trust – Local, regional or statewide nonprofit conservation organizations directly involved in helping protect natural, scenic, recreational, agricultural, historic or cultural property.

Link – Land connecting resources, recreational areas and ecosystems that provide sustainability for plants and animals.

Loop trail – A trail that starts and stops at the same point.

Local trail – A trail within one jurisdiction and generally contained within a local recreation area.

Low impact recreation – Recreation facilities with a mix of uses on undeveloped land or minimally improved lands. These uses may include wildlife viewing, nature study, fishing and non-motorized boating. In most cases, support facilities like restrooms, parking areas, trails, water access and signage are needed to support low impact recreational uses that do not require major landscape alterations.

Meaningful watershed education experience – This terminology refers to a commitment by the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup to formally engage schools as integral partners to undertake initiatives in helping to meet the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The meaningful watershed education experience goal promotes individual stewardship and assists individuals, community-based organizations, businesses, local governments and schools

to undertake initiatives, including opportunities to participate in local restoration and protection projects, and to support stewardship efforts in schools and on school property.

Minimum instream flow – The minimum flow rate required to sustain the health of the flora and fauna living in a stream.

Minimum instream flow for recreation – The minimum flow rate required to support a quality recreational boating experience.

National trail – A trail that has received special designation from Congress.

National Historic Trail – Extended trails that closely follow the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance.

National Scenic Trail – Extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.

National Recreation Trail – Trails that provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas.

Naturalist – A person, often a scientist or writer, who studies and promotes nature.

Nature-deficit disorder – Many people, particularly children, are not experiencing the out-of-doors and have a disconnect with nature. The social, psychological, physiological and even spiritual ramifications of a dearth of outdoors experience for a generation raised on electronic, rather than natural, stimulation and entertainment.

Nonformal educator – A person who provides educational programs outside the framework of a formal school setting.

Nontidal wetlands – Wetlands not affected by the tide.

Nongame wildlife – Species that are not actively sought by hunters, trappers or anglers.

Obligate species – Plants that require wet soils and typically standing water in which to grow.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) – Any motorized vehicle specifically designed for travel off of paved highways. OHV's include off-highway motorcycles, dune buggies, four-wheel drive vehicles, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.

Open space – Minimally developed land that is public or privately owned, including scenic rural landscapes, urban greenspace, greenways, trails, undeveloped riparian lands and floodplains, historic landscapes, parkland and undeveloped recreation areas, forests, farmland, and undisturbed natural environments and wildlife habitat.

Passive recreation – Activity that is initiated by individuals that can be less strenuous and generally requires less developed facilities than active recreation.

Primary contact recreation – This refers to a recreational activity requiring direct contact with the resource, most often referring to contact with natural water bodies. For example swimming, snorkeling, tubing, surfing and diving require direct contact with water, while boating and fishing may not require immediate and direct contact with the water.

Purchase of development rights (PDR) – Also known as agricultural conservation easements (ACE). A voluntary, non-regulatory program through which a government agency (in Virginia, a locality) pays a landowner for the development rights on the land, in exchange for limiting development on the land in the future. This tool has been used most frequently to preserve agricultural lands. The deed restriction serves to protect valuable agricultural resources, including soils, water quality, wildlife habitat, historic sites and scenic views.

Rails-To-Trails – Paths constructed on or along abandoned railroad rights-of-way.

Rails-with-Trails – Trails constructed on or adjacent to an active railroad right-of-way.

Recreational carrying capacity – A measure of the amount of activity days of recreational use a given area or facility can provide without damage to the resource or excessive conflicts between users. The user's expectations for the type of recreational experience they are seeking dictates the amount of social interaction, man-made improvements and structured programming considered as acceptable.

Reforestation – Restoration of native forests using indigenous plants and trees.

Regional trail – Any trail of significant length that crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

Remainder interest, Reserved life estate – An agreement that allows a landowner to convey the land to a land trust or other conservation organization, while continuing to live on or use the land until their death. The "remainder interest" in the property then reverts to the conservation organization. This approach provides limited income tax benefits, but full estate tax benefits.

Riparian – Lands located along banks of a natural course of water and associated with riverine environments.

Riparian forest – The forested area of land adjacent to a body of water such as a river, stream, pond, lake, marshland, estuary, canal or reservoir.

Scenic byway – The National Scenic Byways Program was established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. Under the program, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.

Scenic highway – A road, designated as such by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, within a protected scenic corridor located, designed and constructed so as to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and cultural value of the countryside. (*Code of Virginia* §33.1-64)

Scenic River Advisory Committee – Local or regional committees of not less than three members, appointed by the director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation to consider and manage scenic river interests and issues. The committees shall assist and advise the director and the local governing body with advice regarding the protection or management of the scenic river segment in their jurisdiction. The committees may consider and comment to the director on any federal, state or local governmental plans to approve, license, fund or construct facilities that would alter any of the assets that qualified the river for scenic designation. Active committees are: Goose Creek Committee and Historic Falls of the James. (*Code of Virginia* § 10.1-401.4 and see Scenic River Board)

Scenic river evaluation program – Rivers considered for designation must be evaluated following the established criteria of the Virginia Scenic River Program. The evaluation point of reference is from the surface of the river during the year when the foliage is in leaf. The criteria includes: stream corridor vegetation; streambed and stream flow modifications; human development of visual corridor; historic features; landscape; quality of fishery; rare, threatened or endangered species; water quality; parallel roads; crossings; and special features affecting aesthetics. More can be found at: www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/srmain.shtml.

Scenic roads – All road corridors that have been identified as having scenic qualities, including designated Virginia Byways, National Scenic Byways and All American Roads, as well as roads found to qualify for the state program that have not been officially designated.

Scrub/shrub wetlands – The intermediate stage of wetland plant growth when the plants are predominantly shrubs or small trees. These wetland types are not typically wet year-round.

Seaside – The Atlantic Ocean side of the Eastern Shore.

Sense of place – A component of cultural identity and human orientation in the landscape based on a personal response to the environment. In the larger landscape context, sense of place may be an individual's perception of the whole region, state or nation.

Site – Within the context of green infrastructure, site refers to the smaller parcels of land that provide habitat that are linked to other larger system components.

Small woodlot – A segment of a woodland or forest capable of small-scale production of forest products, such as wood fuel and sawlogs, as well as recreational uses, such as bird watching, wildlife watching and hiking.

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Smart growth – Strategies for planning economically sound development creating walkable, livable communities offering a high quality of life. Smart growth promotes revitalization, redevelopment and infill in urban and suburban areas and encourages development around established community centers already served by utilities and other public facilities. Smart growth links sustainable development with the availability of infrastructure, water and land based resources to support the community.

Social marketing – The application of marketing technologies developed in the commercial sector to solve social problems where behavior change is required.

Stakeholder – A broad grouping of individuals, groups or organizations with an interest in, or influence over, the program or project.

Standards of Learning (SOL) – The Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools describe the Commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12 in English, mathematics, science, history/social science, technology, the fine arts, foreign language, health and physical education, and driver education.

State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) – The State Land Evaluation and Advisory Council (SLEAC) was created in 1973 with the mandate to estimate the use value of eligible land for each jurisdiction participating in the use-value taxation program. The SLEAC contracts annually with the 1) Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech to develop an objective methodology for estimating the use value of land in agricultural and horticultural uses, 2) the Virginia Department of Forestry for the use value of land in forestry, and 3) the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the use value of land in open space.

State strategic trails plan – A plan created by DCR staff and a task force to set the vision and mission for the State Trails Program, along with specific goals and objectives for achieving that vision.

Stewardship – Being responsible for taking care of natural resources.

Sustainable forestry – The stewardship and use of forests and forestlands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki, 1993).

Sustainability – The ability of an activity to be maintained over time without depleting the natural resource base. Sustainable activities do not reduce options or otherwise impoverish future generations.

Tax benefits – Income and estate tax deductions derived from qualified charitable donations.

Thematic trails – Driving routes that follow a particular historic event or display a particular set of sites that have common resources. Examples are: Captain John Smith Driving and Water Trail, DGIF Birding and Wildlife Trails, Civil War Trails and Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail.

Tidal wetlands – Wetlands within tidal areas where water levels change with the tide.

Timber stumpage – Standing timber and its value.

Title – Indicates position of lawful ownership and right to property. Combination of all elements constituting proof of ownership.

TMDL (total maximum daily load) – A term that represents the total pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality standards.

Trail – The treadway and shoulders of a cleared or improved path.

Trunkline trail – A generally long-distance trail designed to accommodate multiple uses that is a key component of the state trail system. A major trail to which connector trails link.

Urban crescent – The populated and increasingly developed land spanning along the I-95 corridor from Washington, DC and Northern Virginia to the Richmond metropolitan area and southeast to Hampton Roads and the coastline.

Viewshed – The area that can be seen from a particular place where landform, not vegetation, determines its extents.

Virginia byway – A road, designated as such by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance. Preference is given to corridors controlled by zoning or otherwise, so as to reasonably protect the aesthetic or cultural value of the highway. (*Code of Virginia* §33.1-63)

Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS) – A survey of a percentage of Virginia households that reports citizen opinions on numerous natural resource and outdoor recreation topics.

Virginia Scenic River Board – An advisory board, appointed by the governor, composed of the DCR director and 15 members-at-large. The board has no regulatory authority and advises the governor and the director concerning the protection or management of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System, including, but not limited to, appointments of Scenic River Advisory Committees; providing recommendations concerning scenic river designations; commenting on any federal, state or local governmental plans regarding the

impacts to potential or designated rivers; assisting in preserving and protecting the natural beauty of the scenic rivers; and assistance to local governments in solving problems associated with the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. (*Code of Virginia* § 10.1-406 and see Scenic River Advisory Committee)

Visioning – A strategic planning process that provides an opportunity for citizens to come together and discuss their hope for the future and identify and establish shared goals to achieve the desired community outcome.

Water-access facility – Any facility that provides direct recreational access to the water.

Water quality – The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for recreation, fishing or consumption.

Watershed – All the land that drains into a given body of water.

Water trail – For the purposes of this *Virginia Outdoors Plan*, the term blueway and water trail are used synonymously. Blueways and water trails are managed systems of access points and support facilities that allow trail users to plan multi-day trips with assurances that access points, camping sites, rest stops and re-supply sites are clearly identified on maps and on signs visible from the water.

Wayfinding – 1) The ways in which people and animals orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. 2) The art and craft of providing signs and symbols that help travelers find their way from place to place.

Wetland banking – Wetland areas that are created or enhanced to compensate for the loss of wetlands in other areas due to development of some form.

Wetland function – Wetlands function as a natural pollutant filter to reduce sediment and chemical contaminants from reaching other water bodies, such as streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

Wetland loss mitigation – Any action taken that offsets the loss of the wetland function for the removal of pollutants before they contaminate other bodies of water. This can include wetland preservation and upland reforestation of areas that buffer existing wetlands, but typically wetland mitigation refers to wetland bank creation.

Working lands or working landscapes – Land that has been modified by humans to produce food, fiber or other materials including working lands used for agriculture, forestry, ranching and mining.